

### SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 5, and 6 have been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 4. Support can be found in original Claim 4. Claims 7 – 14 have been newly added. Support can be found in the specification and is listed below:

- Claim 7: page 7, lines 3 – 6;
- Claim 8: page 8, lines 1 – 6;
- Claim 9: Tables 1 – 4; and
- Claims 10 – 14: page 10, lines 8 – 14.

No new matter has been added.

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Chu for indicating that Claim 4 was only objected to as depending from a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the present amendments, all of the pending claims are fully patentable.

The rejection of Claims 1 – 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent 5,213,877 (**Yoshida et al.**) has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As the Examiner will note, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the limitations of canceled Claim 4. Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 6, and the claims dependent thereon, are patentable over **Yoshida et al.** for the same reasons that Claim 4 was not rejected in view of this reference.

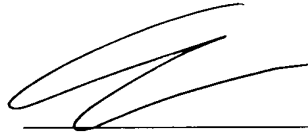
Accordingly, the rejection is no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

Applicants note that present Claim 5 is drawn to a methods for producing ceramic circuit boards according to present Claim 1, and present Claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of present Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of present Claim 5 (MPEP § 821.04).

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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